



# Nevada Historical Society

## Society News



### A brief staff write-up—

My name is Dorothy Barry and I was born in B'ham, Alabama but I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. When I moved West, I lived in the Bay Area for 20 years and worked at UC Berkeley 12+ years. I moved to Reno in 2004. I worked at UNR for 10 years before coming to the Society. I am still working on a History degree at UNR. My son is a senior at UNR. I love animals and have four Chihuahuas. I love blues music, and traveling with my sister.

**NHS Quarterly Publication—**The Society is working on our latest publication, a single issue for 2015 that will come out in early January. The Society is actively seeking new content for articles, book reviews and smaller articles for our *Notes and Documents* section. If you have any questions, please contact Shery, either by email at [shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org](mailto:shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org), or call her at 775-688-1190 ext. 222.

**Computer & Server Funds Needed—**The Society continues to work on digitizing collection materials but are needing funds to purchase newer computers to meet the software and platform needs and a second server for storage with continuing growth of the digital-born collections.

**Miss Wakayama —**One of the Nevada Historical Society's most endearing artifacts has a new accessory and a new story to share with visitors after more than 80 years. Miss Wakayama, a nearly 3-foot tall "Friendship Doll" given by Japan to the Society in 1929, was part of an exchange of good will between Japan and the United States. Several weeks ago, Christine Johnson, Curator of Artifacts and Education at the Society, received a letter from a group in Japan asking if the Society would accept a "peace cap," for the doll. Of course, I accepted the offer," Johnson said. The peace cap arrived just in time for Veterans Day and will remain on the doll through Christmas Eve. This is both the 70th year since the end of (World War II), as well as the 88th anniversary of the arrival of the first blue-eyed dolls in Japan. The 88th year (of age) is highly celebrated in Japanese culture, thus the notion to celebrate the dolls."



### AGA Chip Dig & Cuba Gaming Lecture—

The Society was really happy with our 2nd annual Chip Dig event. Guy Clifton wrote a nice article and it was the featured article on the RGJ *Our Nevada* weekend issue. We had many people stop by for the Chip Dig, who were first time visitors at the Society.

**NHS History Conference—**The Society hosted our first history conference in almost eight years this past September 25th—26, 2015. The staff and participants were very happy with the turnout. The Society has tentatively scheduled the 2016 Nevada History Conference for September 30th and October 1, 2016. The final dates will be determined after the UNR Football schedule has been posted. Watch for more information to be posted soon, including the theme for 2016.

## Notes from the Crypt

The artifact department at the Society is absolutely brimming with projects, due in large part to the support of some wonderful docents, volunteers and local experts working in the collections! We continue to catalog and research a variety of materials in our attempt to inventory and develop the artifact storage area.

One project we are extremely proud to share information on is the new NHS Basket Project. Thanks to the amazing generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to fund and secure the services of Mr. Jerome Evans, who is an expert in Native American baskets. Mr. Evans has finished research, identify and assess the entire Native

American basket collection held by the Historical Society, which will result in a detailed record of what holdings the Society has, the composition materials and the origins of each baskets (affiliated tribes).

The Society's basket collection stretches back to the inception of the institution, as some of the earliest materials collected by Jeanne Wier (the founder of NHS) included a variety of Native American materials, including baskets. We will be refreshing sections of our Native American gallery, which will include a number of new baskets with interesting history.

Thanks to Mr. Evans for his detailed work on the project, Shery Hayes-Zorn (Director) for approving and supporting the project and to the wonderful benefactor who made this project possible.

If you would like to donation Artifact materials to the Society, please call Christine Johnson at 775-688-1190 x231 or email her at [ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org](mailto:ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org).

### Docent Meeting Lectures

#### Dec 2—10am

Patty Caffereta—*Christmas in Nevada*

#### Jan 6—10am

Felvia Belaustegui—*Reno's Italian Section.*

#### Feb 3—10am

Dick Dreiling—*History of Sparks through Postcards*

#### March 2—10am

John Gomes—*My Life in Nevada*



Winnowing Tray (left) from Society collection.  
Jerome Evans, (right) basket expert is working on identifying baskets.

## Museum Store News

As I near completion of my first year as store manager here at the Society I realize I still have a lot of unfinished ideas for the continuing reorganization of the store. It has been an exciting adventure meeting so many local authors and discovering so many new things about the Great State of Nevada!

Most recently I have been working on restocking a large number of familiar books that have sold well in the past, developing a more affordable used book pricing level, and bringing in more items that are made locally in Nevada. We have quite a few new titles in as well. I'm looking forward to the History for the Holidays event when some of our favorite Nevada authors will be hand to discuss their books.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our fantastic Docent Council so I would like to thank all of them as well. I'm looking forward to moving into the new year!



Mark your calendars as the store gears up for our annual History for the Holidays event. This one day event, we offer a 20% on most products. What a great way to get people checked off your Holiday shopping list and help support the Society!

If you would like find out what the Museum Store has available, please call Dorothy Barry at 775-688-1190 x221 or email her at [dnbarry@nevadaculture.org](mailto:dnbarry@nevadaculture.org).

## Library News

I'd like to thank the Nevada State Genealogical Society for donating a roll of Mylar which is used to preserve our broadside/poster collection.

This is the second year that the organization has donated mylar to the Nevada Historical Society and it will help preserve this unique collection for future generations of researchers. The broadside/poster collection has been organized, encapsulated and entered into the Nevada Historical Society

PastPerfect database by docents Brian O'Hara and Ed Wishart. This has made this valuable collection available to the public.

If you would like to donation Library and Ephemera materials to the Society, please call Michael Maher at 775-688-1190 x227 or email him at [mmaher@nevadaculture.org](mailto:mmaher@nevadaculture.org).

## Photography Department News

We are pleased to announce the donation of the Nick Ali photography collection to the Nevada Historical Society. Nick Ali was Nevada's premier ghost-town photographer of the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1930s, Ned E. or "Northeast" Johnson of Pomona, California, who had previously documented our active mining towns, was among the first to record the transition of many of Nevada's boom camps into abandoned "ghost towns." Nell Murbarger (1909-1991), through her newspaper articles and 1956 book, *Ghost of the Glory Trail*, helped create the verb "ghost-towning", as well as the popular activity it became in Nevada and elsewhere.

A Navy veteran, who saw combat on the U. S. S. Biscayne during WWII, Nick Ali

was not someone cowed by the vast open spaces of Nevada's "outback". With a long-held interest in history, Ali was disheartened "that so little remains of Nevada's past because of vandalism, progress, and nature's elements." After retiring from the tile contracting business, Ali set out to preserve as much as possible of the State's vanishing rural history. Visiting nearly every forgotten mining site with standing ruins, Ali amassed the largest collection of ghost-town photographs ever made in Nevada.

Not a simple documentarian, Ali approached his subject with the eye of an artist. He photographed in the best early morning and evening light, sought out the best camera angles, and care-

fully composed each shot, all in a variety of weather conditions. Nick had his best images enlarged and framed, exhibiting and selling them around the State.

Nick's son Larry Ali donated this major collection to the Society in May of this year. Staff and volunteers are actively organizing the collection by county and town. Copy scans and prints can be ordered through the Society's Research Room.

If you would like to donation Photography collection materials to the Society, please call Lee Brumbaugh at 775-688-1190 x228 or email him at [lbrumbaugh@nevadaculture.org](mailto:lbrumbaugh@nevadaculture.org).

### Hours of Operation

Museum & Store  
Tue-Sat 10-4:30pm

Research Library  
Wed-Sat 12-4pm

### Address

1650 N. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89503  
775-688-1190 ext. 0

### Admission Fee

Adults—\$5  
Children 17 and under—Free  
Members—Free

\*Free Parking permits available

\*Limited Seating for programs

### Please Visit

NHS Facebook Page  
[www.museum.nevadaculture.org](http://www.museum.nevadaculture.org)

\*Sign up for our e-blasts

**NEVADA**  
A WORLD WITHIN.  
A STATE APART.

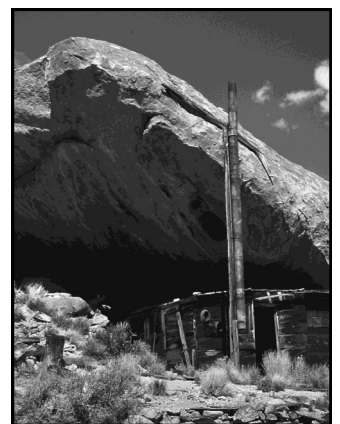
### Exhibit Schedule

#### Latimer Art Club

Oct 9—Dec 12, 2015  
Reception Oct 9, 5-7pm

#### Jan Aphelin

Jan 15—April 30, 2016  
Reception Jan 15, 5-7pm



The Bass Camp, was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by one of the last lone prospectors and miners in Nevada, Andrew Bass.